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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

- 1.(original) An article for the release of a plurality of vapours, the article containing:
a first liquid or solid phase comprising a first vaporisable agent;
a second liquid or solid phase comprising a second vaporisable agent;
and a third phase (10) which constitutes a barrier between the first and second phases;
wherein
the first and second phases are such that if placed in contact with each other one phase or one or more component thereof would mix or migrate into the other phase
wherein the article comprises an enclosure having a partition wall between the first phase and the second phase at the commencement of use of the article, the partition wall terminating above the bottom wall of the enclosure the third phase being at the bottom of the enclosure, wherein the lower edge of the partition wall extends into the third phase at the commencement of use of the article;
wherein the commencement of vaporisation of the second phase is delayed by the third phase and wherein when the first phase has issued from the article in use, the third phase is exposed to the air and can shrink whereby the second phase can flow around the third phase and then evaporate from the article.

- 2.(original) An article for the release of a plurality of vapours, the article containing:
a first liquid or solid phase comprising a first vaporisable agent;
a second liquid or solid phase comprising a second vaporisable agent;
and a third phase which constitutes a barrier between the first and second phases;
wherein the first and second phases are such that if placed in contact with each

other one phase or one or more component thereof would mix or migrate into the other phase wherein the article comprises an enclosure having two upright limbs connected together, wherein at the commencement of use the first phase is located in one limb the second phase is located in the other limb and the third phase is located therebetween such that commencement of the vaporisation of the second phase is delayed by the third phase; such that, in use, initially vaporisation of the first agent commences, and subsequently vaporisation of the second agent commences, the commencement of vaporisation of the second agent being delayed by the third phase.

3.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the first phase is adapted to evaporate substantially completely.

4.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second phase is adapted to evaporate substantially completely.

5.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the first phase is a liquid.

6.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the first phase is a gel.

7.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second phase is a liquid.

8.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the second phase is a gel.

9.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the third phase is a liquid.

10.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein the third phase is a gel.

11.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second phases comprises as an evaporable agent a fragrance.

12.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second phases comprises as an evaporable agent a compound selected from an insecticide, insect repellent, miticide or anti-allergenic compound.

13.(previously presented) An article according to claim 1, where the third phase comprises a third evaporable agent.

14.(previously presented) A composition according to claim 1, wherein the third phase is a liquid or gel whose volume reduces when exposed to air.

15.(previously presented) A method of dispensing at least two active agents, using an article according to claim 1, wherein the commencement of evaporation of the first evaporable agent precedes the commencement of evaporation of the second evaporable agent.

16.(original) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein evaporation of the second evaporable agent commences substantially at the point at which evaporation of the first evaporable agent is complete.

17.(original) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein evaporation of the second evaporable agent commences before evaporation of the first evaporable agent is complete.

18.(previously presented) An article according to claim 2 wherein the second phase is adapted to evaporate substantially completely.

19.(previously presented) A method of dispensing at least two active agents, using an article according to claim 2 wherein the commencement of evaporation of the first evaporable agent precedes the commencement of evaporation of the second evaporable agent.

- 20.(previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein evaporation of the second evaporable agent commences substantially at the point at which evaporation of the first evaporable agent is complete.
- 21.(previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein evaporation of the second evaporable agent commences before evaporation of the first evaporable agent is complete.

Furthermore, the limitations of the partition and "limbs" are neither taught nor suggested in Lindhauer, or Benko for that matter. In fact, Lindhauer consistently shows very different arrangements of the three phases, and never suggests a partition wall or a "limb" or U-shaped arrangement. Lindhauer, in the three-phase embodiment as cited by the Examiner, shows phase 1 (103) as a central pillar, which is in direct contact with a concentric coating of phase 3 (101) through which is dispersed phase 2 (107). Indeed, the device itself is a simple tub-like container. There is absolutely no suggestion in Lindhauer to arrange the phases as in present claims 1 and 2. Benko, being cited merely for its teaching of multiple gel or liquid phases in a fragrance releasing article certainly never suggests this arrangement. Accordingly, the partition of claim 1 and the "limbs" of claim 2 are not taught or suggested by Lindhauer or Benko. Therefore, the applicants submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established, and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The applicants further submit that Lindhauer does not teach the limitation of the present invention that when the first phase has issued from the article, the third phase is exposed to the air and can shrink, thereby allowing the second phase to flow around the third phase and then evaporate from the article. The technical advantage of this limitation in the present invention is that the time during which both first and second phases are substantially present in the atmosphere at the same time is drastically minimized. Conversely, Lindhauer teaches a mechanism wherein the rate of volatilization of the first substance is considerably greater than that of the second substance (col. 4, lines 16-25). Although this means that all of the first phase will be released before all of the second phase is released, there will still be substantial overlap whereby both phases are present in the surrounding atmosphere. This is clearly illustrated in Figure 13 of Lindhauer, which indicates that a substantial amount of the second phase will be released at the same time as the first phase.

Turning to Benko, other than teaching the use of gel or liquid phases in an emanating device, there is nothing further in this reference that would suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art that its combination with Lindhauer would lead to a device of the present invention.

Based on the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Lindhauer and Benko fails to teach all of the limitations of the present invention. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established, and the Examiner is respectfully

requested to withdraw the rejections.

Based on the foregoing, the applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain, the resolution of which can be advanced through a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number listed below.